



# THE BERKLEY BEACON



**Berkley Council On Aging**  
**1 North Main St (Town Hall)**  
**Newsletter      March 2020**

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Chair - Margaret Clark-Moroff; Vice Chair—  
Loretta Marshall; Acting Secretary— Nancy Thompson; Board Members—  
Elisabeth Monkowski, Alice Medeiros  
Associate Members: Mary Shilonski    Director—Cynthia Crimlisk

## **Mission Statement**

**To promote and support Berkley Seniors to stay safe and active,  
participate in programs, enjoy life and to stay in their own homes for  
as long as possible.**



## **UP COMING EVENTS**



**March 4 Craft Corner sign up**

**March 5 11:00 AM COA Meeting**

**March 11 Ceramics sign up**

**March 12 Boston Flower & Lunch if signed up**

**March 17 St. Patrick's Day Party sign up**

**March 26 9:00 AM Brown Bag**

**WE are always looking for new FRIENDS; could that be you !**

## **Important Phone Numbers**

### **FIRE/ POLICE/MEDICAL**

**911**

**Attorney General's**

**Elder Hotline**

**(10-5) M-F (888) 243-5337**

### **Berkley Council on Aging**

**(508) 821-3105**

**CouncilOnAging@berkleyma.us**

### **Bristol Elder Services**

**(508) 675-2101**

### **Citizens for Citizens**

### **Food/Rent/Mortgage**

### **Assistance**

**(508) 823-6346**

### **Fuel Assistance**

**(508) 679-0041**

### **MA Council on Aging**

**www.mcoaonline.com**

### **SHINE**

**(508) 821-3105**

### **State Senator Marc Pacheco**

**District Office 508-822-3000**

**State House 617-722-1551**

### **State Rep. NORMAN ORRALL**

**9:30—10:30 a.m., Town Hall**

**1st Monday of each month**

### **Veterans Services**

**Donald Hirschy**

**(508) 669-4524**

*Hi Friends,*

*Well, congratulations we made it through another winter and into March. Hopefully, in the near future all the flowers will begin to pop.*

*This always makes people feel better, days are getting longer and we are more willing to venture out of our homes. When you do, consider coming down to the Council On Aging Center.*

*We offer all types of exercise programs, various crafts, games, puzzles, outings to interesting places and functions like a Paw Sox game or a ride on a paddleboat in Plymouth harbor, not to mention, lots of friendship, reminiscing and good times. So come down and join the fun.*

*Hope to see you soon!*

*Cindy COA Director*

## **TRIVIA QUESTION:**

March 14 is National Potato Chip day, who invented the potato chip?

A. George Crum a cook at the Moon Lake Lodge in Saratoga Spring, NY. He had a customer (Cornelius Vanderbilt) that kept complaining the fries were too thick. So George cut the potatoes paper thin, he loved them. That was in August 1853.

### News Briefs:

\* Looking for people interested in playing chess. A request has been made by a local gentleman.

- The Friends of Berkley COA are sponsoring a trip to the Boston Flower & Garden Show, lunch included on Thursday, March 12, \$60.00 per person. Space is limited so make reservations as soon as possible.
- The Italian class will start again on March 9, all are invited to join. Classes are Monday mornings at 9.
- Brown Bag Program is available to any Berkley resident, it provides a free bag of healthy groceries to eligible seniors the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Income guidelines 1 person \$1,860, 2 people \$2,504, 3 people \$3,149 and 4 people is \$3,793. Call 508 821-3105 for assistance.

\* If there is anyone interested in volunteering to help Berkley residents get to their medical appointments, be a friendly visitor or running simple errands. Please call the center 508 821-3105. We are trying to put together a list of volunteers, wishing to help a fellow town resident.

### **REALLY EVERYBODY COUNTS:**

A reminder 2020 is a census year; **we need you** to answer the census, **this is how cities and town get their monies. They will look at the senior population and the town gets so much per senior for programs.** The amount has gone up per person since last census count. **So stand up and be counted.**

### **To help you identify a census taker:**

They **MUST** show a photo ID with the U.S. Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date.

The Census Bureau will **NEVER** ask for your Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers, money or donations. The 2020 Census will not ask citizenship status.

**If you suspect fraud call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.**

**REMINDER: If Taunton and or Berkley schools are closed due to snow. There is no COA. We don't want people to travel on unsafe roads and risk having an accident.**

O M M O S E S M A L O N E R S  
S S I L T P X B J T H A K Q B  
E E D U E R H O A L A G E A P  
M D J A P O S B M A R W V B X  
A A Q P H H L C E R R A I I E  
J W G S E T A O S R Y L N L X  
N E T I N M M U H Y L T D L T  
O N I R C I A S A B E F U R S  
R A M H U J R Y R I W R R U E  
B Y D C R R O A D R I A A S W  
E W U R R G D H E D N Z N S Y  
L D N G Y L O A N A B I T E R  
L L C M E O M X N S O E I L R  
T N A Y R B E B O K O R V L E  
D U N X L N E D O O W N H O J

## STARS OF BASKETBALL

BILL BRADLEY

BILL RUSSELL

BOB COUSY

CHRIS PAUL

DWAYNE WADE

HARRY LEW

JAMES HARDEN

JERRY WEST

JIM THORPE

JOHN WOODEN

KEVIN DURANT

KOBE BRYANT

LAMAR ODOM

LARRY BIRD

LEBRON JAMES

MAGIC JOHNSON

MOSES MALONE

STEPHEN CURRY

TIM DUNCAN

WALT FRAZIER

DONE IN MEMORY OF KOBE AND FRIENDS

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## DO YOU HAVE MEDICARE AND NEED TO CHANGE PLANS?

Did you change your Medicare or Medicare Advantage plan last fall?

Were your prescription **costs much higher** than expected?

Are your **bills much higher** than anticipated? **Don't be trapped** into paying more than you should!

Please know that Medicare has acknowledged that some people may have “made the wrong plan choice because of inaccurate information from new Plan Finder website.”

They advise you to call 1-800-MEDICARE(1-800-633-4227) and explain your situation. The Call Center representatives can help you *throughout the year* with options for **making changes**.

If you would like to **research your options** before making that call, you can talk with a **SHINE** counselor by calling 1-800-243-4636 or talk with **Lucille** by calling 508 821-3105.

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### Happy Hearts Happenings:

There will be **NO** meeting on March 2nd

March 30th at 12:15 PM: Magic with Jack Ryan with some ESP thrown in. Coffee & Cookies will be served.

This event will be FREE to Members, \$5 for non-members or guests.

So come make new friends or visit with old friends.

Any questions you may have can be answered by calling President Loretta Marshall at 508 880-5138

## **YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR CASH or CREDIT FROM THE STATE IF YOU PAY RENT OR PROPERTY TAXES**

Massachusetts “**CIRCUIT BREAKER**” **TAX PROGRAM** is for qualifying persons age 65 or over whose property tax, or 25% of rent, exceeds 10% of their annual gross income.

You may be eligible for cash or a tax credit of up to \$1,130 this tax year. This benefit equals the amount of your property tax (plus 50% of your water and sewer bill\*) or 25% of your rent exceeds 10% of your income up to a maximum benefit amount.

**You may Qualify if you:** Are 65 or over on or before December 31, 2019

- Own or rent in MA as principal residence
- Your income does not exceed: Single \$60,000, Head of Household \$75,000, Married , filing jointly \$90,000
- Your assessed real estate valuation does not exceed \$808,000

To obtain the Circuit Breaker Credit, you must file for the 2019 tax year, even if you typically don't file a return— and include Schedule CB, the Circuit Breaker Credit form.

**\* Your water and sewer bill must be separate from your property tax bill**

### **Social Security Phone Scam with a Twist**

The Inspector General is warning seniors that **scammers are not only calling and pretending to be government employees** .. threatening legal action and demanding money or gift cards!!! They are now sending fake documents by email to convince you to do what they ask.. Some documents even look like official Social Security letterhead!

**Social Security does not send official reports by email;**

**Social Security will Never** threaten you arrest or other legal action over a fine or fee;

**Social Security will Never** ask for payment by gift card, cash or wire transfer.

They **will** send you a letter by **MAIL** if there is an issue with your Social Security account.

If you get such a call, **hang up and call police, or Senior Medicare Patrol at 1- 800-243 -4636.**

# MARCH 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>COA</b> <b>508</b> <b>821-3105</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30 Trivia 10 Mah Jong	<b>3</b> 9 Yoga 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting	<b>4</b> 10 Body In Motion <b>11</b> <b>Craft Corner</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 Chi Gung 10 Tai Chi <b>11 COA MTG</b> 2 Bridge	<b>6</b> 8:30 Let's talk nutrition 9:15 Chair Yoga 10:15 Coffee Chat <b>11 Games</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Daylight</b> <b>Saving Time</b> <b>Begins</b>	<b>9</b> 8:15 Aerobics 9 Italian Class 10 Mah Jong <b>12:30 Happy Hearts</b>	<b>10</b> 9 Yoga 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting <b>1 BINGO</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 Body In Motion <b>1 Ceramics Bunnies</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 Chi Gung 10 Tai Chi 2 Bridge	<b>13</b> 8:15 Aerobics 9:15 Chair Yoga 10:15 Coffee Chat	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:15 Aerobics 9 Italian Class 10 Mah Jong <b>12:30 Happy Hearts</b>	<b>17</b> 9 Yoga 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting <b>1 St Patrick's Party</b>	<b>18</b> 10 Body In Motion	<b>19</b> 9:30 Chi Gung 10 Tai Chi 2 Bridge	<b>20</b> 8:15 Aerobics 9:15 Chair Yoga 10:15 Coffee Chat <b>11 Games</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:15 Aerobics 9 Italian Class 10 Mah Jong <b>12:30 Happy Hearts</b>	<b>24</b> 9 Yoga 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting <b>1 BINGO</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9 Brown Bag</b> 10 Body In Motion	<b>26</b> 9:30 Chi Gung 10 Tai Chi 2 Bridge	<b>27</b> 8:15 Aerobics 9:15 Chair Yoga 10:15 Coffee Chat	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:15 Aerobics 9 Italian Class 10 Mah Jong <b>12:30 Happy Hearts</b>	<b>31</b> 9 Yoga 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting	<b>Lucille</b> <b>From SHINE</b> <b>Every Wednesday 9-2</b>	<b>8-12 POP UP</b> <b>Library</b> <b>Every Thursday</b>		

Council on Aging  
1 North Main Street  
Berkley, MA 02779

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*The distribution of this newsletter is made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs.*

HAPPY  
SPRING